(iv) Facilitating domestic tourism by promoting amenities and facilities for budget tourists.

(v) Integrated development of identified tourist destinations with the involvement of all the infrastructural departments/State Governments and the private sector.

(vi) Development of tourism in the North East, Himalayan region, Jammu and Kashmir and the Islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, as part of overall strategy of economic development of the regions.

(vii) Enhancing outlay for infrastructure.

(viii) Enacting suitable legislation on travel trade/Tourist Police for protection and security of tourists.

(ix) Liberalization of the visa regime.

(x) Uniformity and rationalization in taxation structure.

(xi) Focussed and cost effective marketing strategy.

(d) Various steps taken by the Government to boost domestic and international tourism include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels. The overall endeavour of the Government is to ensure that the tourists to India should get physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated.

Foodgrains stored in FCI godowns

† *75. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat, rice and paddy stored in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India as on the 30th September, 2001;

(b) the amount spent annually on storage of the said commodities;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that ! .5 lakh tons of foodgrains stored in these godowns become unfit for consumption each year; and

(d) the quantity of foodgrains spoiled in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India during the last five years and the market value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) As on 30.9.2001 the quantity of wheat and rice (inclusive of paddy in terms of rice) stored in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was as follows:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	In FCI Godowns	With State Agencies	Total
Wheat	116.85	251.41	368.26
Rice	185.90	28.62	214.52
Total	302.75	280.03	582.78

(b) The buffer carrying cost, as per the Budget Estimate 2001 -02, is Rs. 5979 crores.

(c) and (d) The stocks of foodgrains available with the FCI are maintained on scientific lines by qualified staff. Despite this some damage occurs due to various factors like unusual rains, floods, cyclone, etc.

The quantity of foodgrains spoiled in the godowns of the FCI during the last five years and the market value thereof is as given below:—

Year	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Quantity (In lakh MT)	0.56 3[illegible]	1.03 7[illegible]	1.47	2.14
Value(In Rs.lakh)			11846	17128

Tourism Promotion Task Force

*76. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Tourism Promotion Task Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to contain the impact of sharp